

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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R 291320Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4542

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS LUSAKA 3185

GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, SF, UK

SUBJ: ZAMBIAN PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 28-29

REF: LUSAKA 3183

SUMMARY: SUNDAY TIMES NOVEMBER 28 HAD LIMITED COVERAGE OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS -- A REPORT FROM SALISBURY ALLEGING THAT THE FRONTLINE STATES HAD AGREED WITH THE BRITISH THAT NKOMO SHOULD HEAD INTERIM RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT (DETAILS SEPTTEL) AND A INTERVIEW WITH A WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALIST WHO HAD FLED SOUTH AFRICA. THE PAPERS OF NOVEMBER 29 FOCUSED MORE ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. BOTH THE TIMES AND DAILY MAIL CARRIED REPORTS FROM SALISBURY THAT SMITH IS TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. AGREEMENT IN GENEVA ON A COMPROMISE DATE FOR RHODESIAN INDEPENDENCE AND REACTIONS TO MUZOREWA S GROUP S ALLEGATION FRONTLINE STATES FOISTING NKOMO ON ZIMBABWEANS (SEPTTEL) RECEIVED HEADLINE TREATMENT.

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ENDS SUMMARY.

1. NOVEMBER 28 TIMES OF ZAMBIA FRONT-PAGE AN EXCLUSIVE NOVEMBER 27 INTERVIEW WITH A 31-YEAR OLD WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALIST, HERT KIMMEL. KIMMEL WAS TRANSITING LUSAKA FROM BOTSWANA FOR AN UNDISCLOSED DESTINATION, AFTER HAVING FLED SOUTH AFRICA IN ANTICIPATION OF BEING ARRESTED. ARTICLE STATES THAT SINCE THE SOWETO RIOTS MORE THAN 20 BLACK AND WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN JAILED. KIMMEL TOLD THE TIMES THAT SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALISTS WERE PUT IN JAIL "FOR DOING THEIR JOB AND WRITING THE TRUTH." WHEN ASKED IF HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICA SOON, THE REPORTER REMARKED, "SOUTH AFRICA WILL PERISH IN A DISASTER BECAUSE THE AFRIKAANERS WILL DIE BEFORE THEY HAND OVER POWER TO THE BLACKS."

2. BOTH NOVEMBER 29 DAILIES CARRIED CHAIRMAN OF THE RHODESIAN FRONT PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE CAUCUS, ANDRE HOLLAND, PREDICTION THAT SMITH WOULD BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE IN AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT. HOLLAND REPORTEDLY SAID THAT SMITH WOULD NOT BE A PARTY TO A CONSTITUTION "WHICH MAKES EVERYTHING, RHODESIANS, BLACK AND WHITE, HAVE BUILT UP, FALL TO THE GROUND." ARTICLE ALSO QUOTES SMITH AS SAYING IN AN INTERVIEW "IF WE CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS AT THE PRESENT PACE, THEN THE EXERCISE WILL NOT TAKE THE ANTICIPATED TWO YEARS -- IT WILL BE TEN YEARS BEFORE WE REACH OUR DESTINATION."

3. ENDING OF THE GENEVA DEADLOCK ON A DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE FIGURED PROMINENTLY ON FRONT PAGE OF BOTH PAPERS.
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